

Head Lice Policy

Responsibility Health & Wellbeing

Endorsed by Council June 2018

Due for Review June 2021

Focus	<p>Most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time. The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.</p> <p>Berwick Fields Primary School acknowledges that, while parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents and students by maintaining vigilance.</p>
Guidelines	<p>The Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, state that when children are identified as having Head Lice (live insects) they must be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced and that children may return to school after treatment. Upon detection of head lice, parents must notify the school and advise in writing when treatment has commenced. Use only safe and recommended practices when treating head lice (see supporting document 'Treating Controlling Lice).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ At enrolment parents will be asked to sign a consent form accepting the terms of this Policy. The wishes of those parents who elect for their children not to participate in a school head lice check must be respected. Parents not signing permission forms will be asked to inspect children at school during the same day the class is checked.▪ A requirement at the School is that parents refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. One treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem and if a child re-attends school with live lice the school may again exclude the child until the live insects have been removed.▪ The First Aid Coordinator and Health and Well Being coordinator are responsible for implementing the program and staff involved are suitable, appropriately trained and meet confidentiality
Implementation	<p>The First Aid Coordinator and Health and Wellbeing staff will be responsible for in performing regular screening checks of all classes. They will also specifically check classes where cases have been found.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Upon observation of a case or cases of head lice, or having been informed of such cases by parents or school staff will report this to the First Aid Coordinator, Principal or Assistant Principal.▪ It is expected that each class would be checked once a term as part of the routine process of checking all classes. Additional checks would be performed on any class where head lice were found.▪ The Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, state that local government nurses, environment health officers and medical officers of health do not have authority to examine students for head lice without parental permission. In the event of a serious outbreak, the services of a private nurse may be sought. Parental permission will be required before treatment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students found with head lice are to be checked by the First Aid Coordinator, a member of the Health and Wellbeing team prior to their return to the classroom. ▪ Clear protocols for any inspection program must be followed, including a pro-forma for written parental permission for all inspections. ▪ If a case of head lice occurs, parents of all students in the student's class will be informed in writing and cooperation is requested. ▪ Parents will be regularly informed of school policy and advised that additional information is available from Local Government Services through the newsletter.
<p>General Comments</p>	<p>For legal reasons teachers are not to search through children's hair, but if head lice or nits are observed they are to be reported to the First Aid Coordinator or the Health & Wellbeing team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents and the school should train children in good health habits. For example, through newsletter articles. ▪ Students with shoulder length hair 'must' have their hair tied back (as per the uniform policy) ▪ It is recommended that parents conduct regular (preferably once per week) inspection of hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method).
<p>Related Documents</p>	<p>Intranet Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Head Lice Management Process <p>Intranet Supporting Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Head Lice Permission Form ▪ Head Lice Treating and Controlling ▪ Head Lice Screening Results ▪ Head Lice Parent Notification



Head Lice Consent Form

Head lice! Just the words are enough to make us itch. While head lice do not cause serious health problems, they can be very hard to manage and cause children to miss school. Most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time. We hope that by working together we can minimise this problem as much as possible. The following guidelines will help clarify our procedures:

- ❖ Children who have live lice will be sent home for treatment.
- ❖ Children who have eggs will receive a letter asking parents to remove them. There is **no** treatment that kills all eggs. These need to be removed. Eggs can be identified as unlike dandruff, they are stuck to the hair shaft.
- ❖ Treatment can consist of commercial head lice preparations, or the “conditioner and comb” method:

STEP ONE: Comb any type of conditioner onto dry, brushed hair.

STEP TWO: Comb the hair in sections using a stainless steel comb.

STEP THREE: Wipe conditioner onto paper towel from comb.

STEP FOUR: If lice or eggs are found the hair should be treated.

STEP FIVE: If you choose not to use an insecticide, you need to “condition and comb” every second day until There have been no live lice found for 10 days.

The Health Department has recently changed its regulations regarding examining children for head lice infestation. Trained personnel within the school now require **written permission** from parents in order to examine children’s heads.

To support our community in the control of head lice we need your permission for us to check. This will be undertaken by a head lice checking team approximately twice a term. All children will receive a notice stating the results of the inspection and any action that is necessary.

Please complete a separate notice for each child and return to school. If you change your mind and no longer wish to allow us to check your child’s hair, please let us know. If we don’t hear otherwise, we will assume we have permission to check your child’s hair for the entire time they are enrolled at BFPS. Thank you for your support in helping us to keep head lice to a minimum at our school.

Amanda Ellaby

Principal

Head Lice Consent Form

I give permission for my child to have his/her hair checked by the head lice team at Berwick Fields Primary School. I agree to follow the schools processes and to treat my child’s hair accordingly prior to returning them back to school to be rechecked.

Child’s Name:

Parent Name: Signature:

Date:

Please inform the school if guardianship/custody changes for your child, as this form will need to be resigned to reflect these changes. Please also inform the school in writing if you no longer wish to provide consent for the school to undertake head lice inspections for your child.

Berwick Fields Primary School

Head Lice Notification

If every child receives a letter, then confidentiality is maintained for all students, regardless of screening results.

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

Today your child was screened by _____
and was found to have the following:

- Live lice
- Dead lice
- Louse eggs
- No evidence of lice or eggs found



Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, children found with live lice cannot be readmitted to school until appropriate treatment for lice has commenced. Please treat your child's hair appropriately.

Please return the slip below when your child returns to school informing the Principal when treatment has occurred.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for partaking in this community approach to head lice control.

Kerrie Roney
Health and Wellbeing



Head lice program NOTIFICATION OF TREATMENT

Child's name _____ **Grade:** _____
My child was screened on ___/___/___ and was found to have live lice and/or eggs.

I have treated my child with _____ and they will be returning to school today.

Parent's name (please print) _____

Parent's signature _____

Date ___/___/___

